

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-37 (cancelled).

Claim 38 (previously amended): A produce container comprising:

- a basket body;
- a lid for covering the basket body;
- a latch for securing the lid to said basket body;
- at least one ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid wherein the at least one ventilation slot is arranged so that an airflow of cooling air can pass through the interior of the container; and
- wherein the lid is attached to the basket body using a hinge and wherein the hinge includes at least one of said ventilation slots formed therein.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A produce container comprising:

- a basket body having ~~substantially~~ smooth sided walls;
- a lid for covering the basket body;
- a latch for securing the lid to said basket body;
- a plurality of ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid, wherein the plurality of ventilation slots are arranged to enable ~~so that a~~ bi-directional airflow of cooling air ~~can~~ to pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the lid is attached to the basket body using a hinge and wherein the hinge includes at least one ventilation slot formed therein.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the produce container is configured for use with a tray, the tray capable of holding a plurality of the produce containers and including a plurality of ventilation apertures arranged in the sidewalls of the tray to facilitate bi-directional cooling airflow through the tray and facilitate bi-directional cooling

airflow through any produce containers placed therein, wherein the plurality of ventilation slots of the produce container are arranged so that a bi-directional airflow of cooling air can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 41 wherein at least some of the plurality of ventilation slots of the produce container are configured so that they are capable of being aligned with associated ventilation apertures of the sidewalls of the tray when the produce container is placed within the tray thereby facilitating bi-directional cooling airflow through the tray and through the produce container.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 41 for use with a tray having other produce containers loaded in the tray, wherein the plurality of ventilation slots of the produce container are configured so that they are capable of being aligned with associated ventilation apertures of the sidewalls of the tray and aligned with ventilation slots of other produce containers in the tray when the produce container is placed within the tray thereby facilitating bi-directional cooling airflow through the tray, the other produce containers, and the produce container.

Claim 44 (cancelled).

Claim 45 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein a bottom surface of the produce container includes a ventilation channel that enables cooling air to flow underneath the container.

Claim 46 (cancelled).

Claim 47 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the latch for securing the lid to said basket body comprises a latching means for reversibly securing the lid to the basket body.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the latch for securing the lid to said basket body is selected from among the group consisting of: tooth

engagement latches; edge catch latches; button latches; hook-and-loop closures; shrinkwrap banding; elastic banding; and adhesive tape.

Claim 49 (cancelled).

Claim 50 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein the basket body and the lid are devoid of structural ribbing.

Claims 51-53 (cancelled).

Claim 54 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the basket body includes a front portion, a back portion, and two opposing side portions;

and

wherein the plurality of ventilation slots include: front ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid at the front portion of the container, back ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid at the back portion of the container, and side ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid at each of the opposing side portions of the container, thereby accommodating bi-directional airflow of cooling air that can pass through the interior of the container.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 54 wherein the lid is attached to the basket body using a hinge connecting the lid to the basket body at the back portion of the body, the hinge having at least one ventilation slot formed therein.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 54 wherein said front ventilation slot includes a plurality of ventilation slots formed between the basket body and the lid at the front portion of the container.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 54 wherein said side ventilation slots include at least one ventilation slot formed between the basket body and the lid at each of the opposing side portions of the container.

Claims 58-64 (cancelled).

Claim 65 (currently amended): A produce container comprising:
a smooth walled basket body;
a lid ~~for covering~~ attached to the basket body with a hinge;
a latch for securing the lid to said basket body; and
a plurality of horizontally extending elongate ventilation slots defining vertically oriented openings arranged between the lid and basket body to enable bi-directional cooling airflow through interior of the container.

Claim 66 (cancelled).

Claim 67 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 65 ~~[[66]]~~ wherein ~~the container includes a front, back and two sides and~~ the plurality of ventilation slots include at least one ventilation slot formed in each side of the container. ~~of said front, back, and two sides.~~

Claim 68 (currently amended): ~~The produce container of Claim 67~~ A produce container comprising:
a basket body having a lid for covering the basket body and a latch for securing the lid to said basket body;
a plurality of ventilation slots arranged to enable bi-directional cooling airflow through interior of the container wherein the plurality of ventilation slots comprise horizontal ventilation slots formed in an upper portion of the produce container and including at least one ventilation slot formed in each of a front side, a back side, and two other sides; and
wherein the walls of the basket are substantially smooth.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 65 ~~68~~ wherein at least some of the plurality of horizontal ventilation slots are arranged between the lid and the basket.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 67 wherein a major axis of an elongate ventilation slot extends along a line defined by an intersection between the lid and the basket body. ~~the lid is connected to the basket body using a hinge.~~

Claims 71-72 (cancelled).

Claim 73 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 65 ~~70~~ wherein at least one ventilation slot is formed in the hinge.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 70 wherein the basket body further includes a bottom surface configured to enable a cooling airflow to pass underneath the container.

Claim 75 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 74 wherein the bottom surface of the basket body is configured to form ~~[[a]]~~ an arched ventilation channel enabling the cooling airflow to pass underneath the container.

Claims 76-77 (cancelled).

Claim 78 (currently amended): The produce container of Claim 65 ~~[[76]]~~ wherein the latch comprises a button latch.

Claims 79-82 (cancelled).

Claim 83 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein a bottom surface of the produce container is configured to enable cooling air to flow underneath the container.

Claim 84 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein said bi-directional airflow comprises cooling airflow passing through the interior of the container in two substantially perpendicular directions.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The produce container of Claim 39 wherein the ventilations slots are configured such that,

a first set of ventilation slots includes at least one ventilation slot arranged at each end of a major axis of the container, and

a second set of ventilation slots includes at least one ventilation slot arranged at each end of a minor axis of the container, and

wherein said configuration of ventilation slots facilitates said bi-directional airflow such that a first cooling airflow passes through the interior of the container generally parallel to the major axis and a second cooling airflow passes through the interior of the container generally parallel to the minor axis.

Claim 86 (new): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein the at least one ventilation slot comprises vertically oriented ventilation slots arranged so that a long axis of the slots extends along a line defined by an intersection between the lid and the basket body.

Claim 87 (new): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein the latch comprises a means for reversible securing the lid with the basket body.

Claim 88 (new): The produce container of Claim 38 wherein a bottom surface of the produce container includes a means for enabling cooling air to flow underneath the container.